Formation of Committee of Members of Parliament for Assessing the Progress of 20-Point Programme

1960. SHREMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the agencies employed by Government for proper assessment of progress and development of 20-Point Programme in rural areas;

(b) whether Government propose to constitute a Committee composed of Members of Parliament to inspect and assess the progress of the implementation of the 20-Point Programme especially in the backward areas; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI): (a) Monitoring Committees have been set up at State, District and Block levels for the purpose of monitoring the implementation of 20-Point Programme. Members of Parliament and Members of State Legislature, irrespective of their Party affiliation, and non-official people's repersentative including representatives of minorities, are represented on these Committees. In addition, Concurrent Evaluation has been introduced by the Deptt. of Rural Development in respect of IRDP and Rural Water Supply. Similar Concurrent Evaluation is likely to be introduced shortly in respect of certain other items of the 20-Point Programme by the concerned Central Ministries|Departments.

(b) No, Sir, as Members of Parliament are already represented on District-Block Level Monitoring Committees.

(c) Does not arise.

U.S.-Pakistan-China axis for arms supply

1961. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing US-Pakistan-China axis in supply of arms to Pakistan;

(b) whether Pakistan is feverishly acquiring arms much beyond its capacity and requirement;

(c) whether these arms are also finding their way to terrorists and criminals in India; and

(d) if so, the steps which have been taken by Government to counter these and to strengthen the country's defence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Government are aware that Pakistan is acquiring arms and equipment from both the USA and China much beyond her legitimate defence needs.

(c) Government have information about weapons from Pakistan falling into the hands of extremist elements in Punjab.

(d) Effective steps are being taken to check the flow of arms from across the border, to the extremists. A constant watch is being maintained on all developments which effect our security with a view to ensure full defence preparedness.

Indigenous Aircraft Carrier

1962. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have solicited cooperation of USA shipyards in providing design, high technology collaboration and services to build country's first indigenous aircraft carrier; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.